Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph occurring at page 3, line 31, to page 4, line 8, of the Specification as follows:

In a first aspect the present invention provides a method for the long term culture of hepatocyte cells comprising the steps:

~~commuting~~ comminuting hepatocyte tissue in cold DMEM and incubating for up to 24 hours at 4°C;

twice digesting with liberase® at a concentration of 0.2mg/ml in the presence of lignocaine;

separating the digested hepatocyte cells; and

culturing in media comprising allogeneic serum.

Preferably the hepatocytes are neonatal hepatocytes.

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 9-21, of the Specification as follows:

In a second embodiment, the present invention provides a method for the long term culture of at least one or more non-hepatocyte cell type capable of secreting one or more liver secretory factors, said method comprising the steps:

~~commuting~~ comminuting non-hepatocyte tissue in cold DMEM and incubating for up to 24 hours at 4°C;

twice digesting with liberase® (0.2 mg/ml) for up to 10 minutes in the presence of lignocaine;

separating the digested non-hepatocyte cells; and

culturing in media comprising allogeneic serum,

wherein said at least one non-hepatocyte cell type is selected from the group consisting of gall bladder epithelial cells, gall bladder endothelial cells, bile duct epithelial cells, bile duct endothelial cells, hepatic vessel epithelial cells, hepatic vessel endothelial cells, sinusoid cells and non-parenchymal liver cells.